

**Memorandum of the Meeting  
Regular Study Session/Meeting  
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland  
Monday, March 15, 2010**

The regular session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, March 15, 2010** at the regular time of 7:05 o'clock p.m.

**Silent Roll Call:** Councilors Brian Novak, Konnie Kuiper and Mark A. Herak were present. Councilor Bernie Zemen was absent owing to vacation and Councilor Dan Vassar was absent owing to work travel. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

**Also present:** John M. Bach, Public Works Director was also present.

Ed Dabrowski of the Park and Recreation Board was also present.

**General Substance of Matters Discussed**

1. The Town Council discussed plans regarding members' attendance at the Gala commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Highland's incorporation. The Town Council President wanted to verify the attendance of members and the clerk-treasurer. All who were present indicated their intention to attend.
2. The Town Council discussed the pending project for the Highland Street Improvement Project. The discussion included whether or not a preference for local contractors could be enforced by the bid law.
3. The Town Council discussed the proposed increases to existing payable offenses in the Ordinance Violation Bureau as well as some suggestions posed by the Metropolitan Police Chief to add Curfew Offenses, Junk Vehicle offenses, and animals running loose. These were not presently in the code as payable offenses.
4. The Town Council and the Public Works Director discussed the need to increase rates for the Solid Waste Collection Fees for residents, to accommodate the increase in the recently adopted contract. The Council discussed whether or not the Council could adopt the alternate contract, in which the rates of increase were lower. The rate increase in the alternative bid, which allowed for bi-weekly recycling rather than weekly and automated pick-up using containers that would be provided by the vendor, only had a 4 cent increase. It was noted that the Town Council adopted the contract at its last meeting for services as presently provided. The discussion included how to cope with volumes of solid waste that exceeded the 95 gallon container. It was noted that services with the 95 gallon volume are becoming more and more in use. The discussion included whether or not persons who don't recycle get a surcharge. It was noted that not everyone places the recycling bin out each week but are still participating in recycling.

The Council restated its desire to visit the recycling and transfer center.

5. The Town Council and the Public Works Director discussed a recent residential Street Light petition, and whether or not the Town Council should move forward. It was noted that the current deficit may urge a moratorium on street light requests. In fact, the Public Works Director suggested that in light of the existing deficit, it may be wise to review existing street lights that are not installed according to the standards of the Subdivision Control Ordinance.

The Town Council informally requested that the Public Works Director contact NIPSCO and gather some facts about the savings from reduced usage, perhaps with all streetlights being switched off or every other one being switched off, or reducing to the current regulations from Subdivision Control Ordinance. The discussion included whether or not using the municipal street lights assessing law in IC 36-9-9 would be a viable option for recovering costs of lighting from residents.

It was noted that Merrillville was possibly engaging in light reduction. It was suggested that Dyer may be as well.

6. The Public Works Director reported that he would be attending a meeting at the Lake County Commissioners Offices to discuss the Economic Recovery Build America Bonds that Lake County could allocate. The discussion would be to reallocate and find a good project or projects combining the disparate projects.
7. The Town Council discussed the request for a waiver of a late fee for his annual business license, as submitted on Allen Landscaping.
8. The Town Council discussed the concerns raised by the Police Chief regarding the absence of margin in his budget to cover officers in 2011 based upon the policy for raises between classes of officers.
9. The Town Council discussed the prospects of using a reduction to the budgeted account to be used for a planned transfer to the Rainy Day Fund, to fund the current shortfall of \$10, 200 to support the balance of costs to the newsletter for the balance of the year. It would require an appropriation hearing.
10. The Town Council discussed placement of the acquisition of "Meyer's property" on Cottage Grove for the next agenda, an ordinance amending the Rainy Day Fund to permit the use of the fund for property acquisition, and the authorization for an additional appropriation hearing.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, March 15, 2010**, was adjourned 9:15 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA  
Clerk-Treasurer